

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for providing actual scale information of a digital image, comprising:
    - 5 digitizing a paper document using a digitizing device to create a digital image; recording scale information associated with the paper document and the digitizing device;
    - associating the digital image and the scale information;
    - storing the digital image and the associated scale information; and
  - 10 providing a digital image viewer for,
    - rendering the digital image,
    - receiving drawing input from a user comprising a line or a shape,
    - calculating a true scale measurement of the drawn line or shape based at least in part on the scale information, and
  - 15 presenting the true scale measurement to the user via the viewer.
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2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the scale information includes an original scale of the paper document, a dots per inch (DPI) of the digitizing device, and an original size of the paper drawing.
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  3. The method of Claim 1, wherein associating the digital image and the scale information comprises embedding the scale information in a header of the digital image.
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  4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the digital image is a TIFF image.
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5. The methods of Claim 4, wherein associating the digital image and the scale information comprises embedding the scale information in a header of the TIFF image.

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6. A computer-based method for providing true scale information of a digital image made from a paper document by a digitizing device, comprising:  
receiving a digital image, wherein the digital image has associated with it scale information of the paper document and the digitizing device;  
5 rendering the digital image;  
receiving drawing input from a user comprising a line or shape;  
calculating a true scale measurement of the drawn line or shape based at least in part on the scale information; and  
presenting the true scale measurement to the user.

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7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the scale information includes an original scale information of the paper drawing, a dots per inch (DPI) of the digitizing device, and an original size of the paper drawing.

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8. The method of Claim 6, wherein the digital image is a TIFF image.

9. The methods of Claim 8, wherein the scale information is embedded in a header of the TIFF image.

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10. A system for presenting actual scale information of a digital image, comprising:

a digitizing device that digitizes a paper document to create a digital image, wherein scale information associated with the paper document and the digitizing device is recorded and associated with the digital image; and

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a digital image viewer that receives the digital image and:

renders the digital image,

receives drawing input from a user comprising a line or shape,

calculates a true scale measurement of the drawn line or shape based at least in part on the scale information, and

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presents the true scale measurement to the user.

11. The system of Claim 10, wherein the scale information includes an original scale information of the paper drawing, a dots per inch (DPI) of the digitizing device, and an original size of the paper drawing.

5 12. The system of Claim 10, wherein the scale information is embedded in a header of the digital image.

13. The system of Claim 10, wherein the digital image is a TIFF image.

10 14. The system of Claim 13, wherein the scale information is embedded in a header of the TIFF image.

15. A digital image viewer for presenting true scale information of a line or a shape drawn on a digital image of a paper drawing, wherein the line or shape is defined by pixels having coordinates, comprising:

a measurement calculator that calculates a true scale measurement of the drawn line or shape based at least in part on scale information and the coordinates of the pixels defining the line or shape; and

presentation means for displaying the true scale measurement.

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16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the scale information comprises an original scale information of the paper drawing, a dots per inch (DPI) of the digitizing device, and an original size of the paper drawing.

25 17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the measurement calculator reads the scale information from a header of the digital image.

18. The system of Claim 15, wherein the digital image is a TIFF image.

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